

TEXAS CHAPTER ELECTED LEADERS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE '23-'24

TAYLOR HANSON PRESIDENT

Taylor Hanson is a multi GRAMMY®-nominated singer, songwriter, producer, writer, and entrepreneur, and Oklahoma Music Hall Of Fame inductee, born and bred in Tulsa. He has worked in the music industry for 30 years and sold over sixteen million albums as a member of the pop-rock trio HANSON. He is also a member of acclaimed power pop band Tinted Windows along with members, James Iha (Smashing Pumpkins, A Perfect Circle), Bun E Carlos (Cheap Trick) and the late Adam Schlesinger (Fountains of Wayne). He is CEO and co-founder of 3CG Records, Hanson Brothers Beer Company, The Hop Jam Festival and Take The Walk, a non-profit focused on issues of extreme poverty in Africa. In 2014 Taylor founded Food On The Move, focused on strengthening community partnership around the issues of hunger and eradicating food deserts, in Tulsa and Oklahoma.



GINA CHAVEZ VICE PRESIDENT

Gina Chavez is a wife, philanthropist and an award-winning independent musician. She is a 2020 Latin GRAMMY nominee for Best Pop/Rock Album, 12-time Austin Music Award winner, including 2019 Best Female Vocals and 2015 Austin Musician of the Year. Her NPR Tiny Desk concert has more than 1.2 million views and her hour-long PBS special is available nationwide. Gina's music is deeply personal. Her passionate collection of bilingual songs takes audiences on a journey to discover her Latin roots through music as she shares her story of life in Texas as a married, queer Catholic.

CAREN KELLEHER SECRETARY

Caren Kelleher is the founder and president of Gold Rush Vinyl, Austin's record pressing plant. Since launching the company in 2018, Caren and her team have pressed records for hundreds of musicians, offering the fastest turnaround times in the industry. Before moving to Austin, Caren worked at Google where she launched Google Play and was later promoted to Head of Music App Partnership, managing the company's work with Spotify, Pandora, iHeartRadio and other music app developers. Caren is also a former band manager and served on the board of the San Francisco Chapter of the Recording Academy®.



TEXAS CHAPTER ELECTED LEADERS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE '23-'24

YOLANDA ADAMS

TRUSTEE

Gospel legend Yolanda Adams is a world renowned singer, record producer, actress, entrepreneur, philanthropist, radio host of her own nationally syndicated morning gospel show and the proud mother of daughter, Taylor Ayanna Crawford. Yolanda Adams, the eldest of six siblings was born in Houston, Texas. She graduated from Sterling High School in Houston, Texas in 1979. After graduating from Texas Southern University where she earned her degree in Radio and Television Broadcasting, she began a career as a school teacher and part-time model in Houston. Yolanda began singing at the age of 16 with the Houston's Southeast Inspirational Choir affiliated with Outreach Missionary Baptist Church as a lead vocalist. In 1986, Ms. Adams was featured on the Edwin Hawkins Music and Arts Seminar Choir release "Give Us Peace," with a performance entitled "My Trust Lies in You." During one of Adams' spectacular performances, she was discovered by Thomas Whitfield and later signed with Sounds of Gospel in which yielded her first album "Just As I Am" in 1987. In 1990, she signed with producer/keyboardist Ben Tankard, and signed to his independent label, Tribute Records and released "Through the Storm."



PAUL WALL

TRUSTEE

Rapper, DJ and entrepreneur, Paul Wall is one of Texas's most successful independent musicians, earning him a major deal with Swishahouse Records' joint venture with Atlantic Records. Wall's "People's Champ" debuted on Billboard Magazine's Top 200 in the #1 spot and quickly reached platinum status. In 2007, Paul received a GRAMMY Nomination for Best Rap Performance as a Duo or Group for his work in GRILLZ. Paul has been a Governor and is a Trustee for the Texas Chapter and continues to be a leader in hip hop.



TEXAS CHAPTER ELECTED LEADERS GOVERNORS 2023-2024

RODNEY ALEJANDRO GOVERNOR

In his 30+ year career, Rodney Alejandro has become recognized as a protean polymath within the entertainment industry. His career spans achievements as a musician, arranger, songwriter, music producer, music director, entertainment executive, public speaker, and educator.

Rodney has given speeches and masterclasses on performance, songwriting, and music production at various institutions worldwide. In 2022, he was appointed to Chair of Songwriting at Berklee College of Music overseeing the curriculum, 33 faculty, and over 450 students. He continues to perform, write, and produce for select projects around the globe.



ARNAECIA ALRIDGE GOVERNOR

Arnaecia Alridge is a music executive and former publicist to GRAMMY Award-winning artists. With diverse genre experience, she has contributed to the careers of gospel artist Yolanda Adams, rappers Paul Wall, P. Diddy and more. An elected music leader, she serves on the Recording Academy's Rap & R&B membership committee and the Texas Chapter as Governor and Chair of the Chapter's Education Committee. Currently, Arnaecia is in development of music label A Jam Records, an ethical creative home for artists.

NORMA DURAN GOVERNOR

Norma Duran is a highly respected veteran of the music industry, boasting over 25 years of experience collaborating with influential Latin artists from Latin America, Mexico, and the United States. Her journey began as a young college student when she started writing a column for a newspaper. She was determined to make a name for herself in the music industry and seized every opportunity to work as an on-air personality and TV host. Her hard work and dedication paid off, and she was eventually recruited to work as an International Business Affairs Director at AFG Sigma Records where she had the privilege of working with world-renowned artists such as Los Temerarios and Conjunto Primavera.

Norma takes great pride in her recent achievements, including her contribution to Los Huracanes del Norte receiving their own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, the No. 1 spot on national radio for Los Hijos de Barron, the international recognition of La Fiera de Ojinaga at Premios de la Radio in Mexico City, and Bobby Pulido's Latin GRAMMY win—a success story Norma has been a part of since the beginning of his career.



TEXAS CHAPTER ELECTED LEADERS GOVERNORS 2023-2024

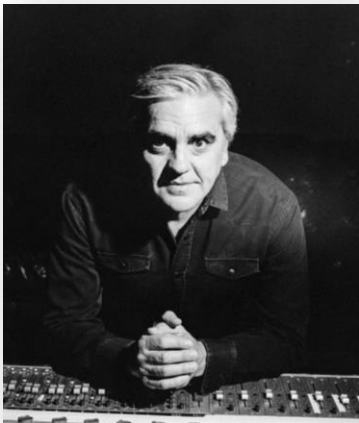
SHAUNA DODDS GOVERNOR

Simply put, Shauna Dodds is a creator. Has been since birth. Since the second she could wrap her tiny fingers around a broken crayon, she's been obsessed with creative expression. With an added passion for music, attention to detail and a competitive drive, she has forged an impressive career and has become a nationally recognized art director. Shauna is best known for her work in the music industry in partnership with her sister, Sarah Dodds, and Backstage Design Studio, which the duo formed close to two decades ago. Combining their individual talents and unique perspectives, the pair has crafted artwork for a number of respected artists including Kris Kristofferson, Willie Nelson, Robert Earl Keen, Jimmy Buffett, Jimmie Vaughan, Reckless Kelly, Def Leppard, Wynonna Judd, Guy Clark, Toby Keith, Bob Schneider, Dierks Bentley, Granger Smith, Jerry Jeff Walker, Mac McAnally, Turnpike Troubadours, Asleep at the Wheel, Radney Foster, Rosie Flores, Pat Green, Aaron Watson, Parker McCollum, The Band Perry and Randy Rogers Band.



JIM ENO GOVERNOR

Most music fans recognize Jim Eno as the drummer and co-founder of Austin rock band Spoon. But his career has more facets than that. Born in Rhode Island, Eno studied electrical engineering in college and started playing the drums as a junior. He fixated on big-band jazz as a way to grow his skills. After moving to Austin to design microchips, Eno joined forces with Britt Daniel and juggled the hectic double life of an electrical engineer and musician. During this time, he found himself drawn toward music production, recording bands when he could between Spoon tours. Eno made the leap to full-time musician and producer in 2006. When he's not recording and touring with Spoon, he operates his own studio and record label, Public Hi-Fi, where he mixes and produces songs for high-profile and local artists, including Heartless Bastards, Tennis and !!!.



KAM FRANKLIN GOVERNOR

Kam Franklin is a singer-songwriter, music producer, activist, writer, orator, model, visual artist, and actress from Houston, TX. She is best known for her work with the gulf coast soul band, The Suffers, but Kam began performing in public at the age of five. A three-time recipient of the Houston Press Music Award for Best Female Vocalist, Kam has performed on five continents and has performed with the Suffers backed by The Houston Symphony in addition to being featured solo.

Both Forbes and Vice have featured Kam for her activism and business ventures that seek to create an inclusive environment in the arts for female artists working in all mediums and from all backgrounds, and in fall 2018, she joined the board for Headcount.org. Kam's unique style and fashion-sense has also been covered by BuzzFeed, Refinery29 and Nylon.



TEXAS CHAPTER ELECTED LEADERS GOVERNORS 2023-2024

SYMBOLYC ONE “S1” GOVERNOR

Larry D. Griffin Jr., known worldwide as 4x GRAMMY Winning producer Symbolyc One (S1), was born and raised in Waco, TX. S1 found his passion for music early in life while listening to his parents' soulful record collection. This passion led him to play piano during Sunday School at his local church and also learn the alto sax in band throughout his teen years. In high school, he would go on to create a hip-hop group (Symbolyc Elementz) along with his cousin Kevin Gaither, which became the origin of his production.

Today, S1 has established himself as one of the top music producers in the music industry. From working with iconic legends such as Madonna and Gladys Knight, to crafting songs for other great artists such as Drake, Lorde, Meek Mill, Lil' Uzi-Vert, The Game, 50 Cent, Kirk Franklin, Common, amongst others, as well as being a core member in Erykah Badu's electronic band, The Cannabinoids. His latest GRAMMY win would come from contributing two songs on Beyonce's critically acclaimed "Renaissance" album.



JACOB SCIBA GOVERNOR

Jacob Sciba is a Texas born and raised Producer, Engineer, & Mixer with over 20 years professional experience. Sciba is currently the Chief Engineer and Partner at the famed Arlyn Studios in Austin, Texas. He started his career at Willie Nelson's Pedernales Studio and in 2012 transitioned to Arlyn Studios facilitating a full remodel of the facility.

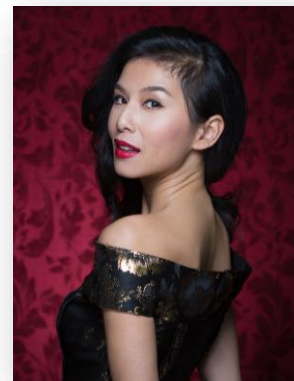
Sciba has had continued success Producing, Engineering and Mixing for artists including Willie Nelson, Gary Clark Jr, Gov't Mule, Terry Allen, Shawn Colvin, Warren Haynes, Steve Earle and Black Pistol Fire. His efforts haven't gone unnoticed, taking home multiple Austin Music Awards locally and Globally receiving four GRAMMY nominations and three wins.

SANGEETA KAUR GOVERNOR

Sangeeta is a 2022 GRAMMY award winning Vietnamese American singer, multimedia artist and producer. This milestone makes her the very first female Vietnamese American singer to have won a GRAMMY in all of history. Sangeeta's body of work is both cinematic in scope and spans a wide range of genres such as Classical, New Age, Contemporary and Spiritual.

As she says, "My life's mission is to create and share music that brings joy and positive transformation to the listener." So far she has released five award-winning albums: *Niguma*, *Ascension*, *Mirrors*, *Compassion* and *Illuminance* and is the producer of the very first ever written Mantra Opera, *Niguma*.

Sangeeta is also the owner of the recording studio, Studio Hill in Austin, Texas.



TEXAS CHAPTER ELECTED LEADERS GOVERNORS 2023-2024

MARK LETTIERI

GOVERNOR

Mark Lettieri is an acclaimed guitarist, composer, producer, and instructor hailing from Fort Worth, TX. He is best known as a creator of modern instrumental guitar music, and for his work with leading instrumental bands Snarky Puppy and the Fearless Flyers. He is a five-time GRAMMY Award-winner as a member of Snarky Puppy, and a GRAMMY nominated solo artist. With these various projects, Lettieri has performed and toured on every continent except Antarctica.



TERESA LABARBERA GOVERNOR



Teresa LaBarbera is one of the top music executives in the world. She is responsible for the discovery of Beyoncé, Destiny's Child and Jessica Simpson working side by side with these artists in their development for decades. She has worked with Beyoncé on all of the superstar's music including the critically acclaimed Beyoncé and Lemonade visual albums as well as The Lion King: The Gift and The Carters Everything is Love. She worked with Jessica Simpson on the release of new music to accompany Jessica's memoir, Open Book, a #1 New York Times Best-seller. Until recently, Teresa was the Head of Music and A&R for Beyoncé's Parkwood Entertainment, where she oversaw all the company's music operations and the label's artist roster, which includes her development of the multi GRAMMY-nominated Chloe and Halle. Teresa was included in Billboard Magazine's A&R Power Player List and is a sought after speaker and mentor and served on the Recording Academy's Board of Trustees and The Texas Chapter's Board of Governors.

GENE MOORE GOVERNOR

Gene Moore is a two-time Grammy nominated gospel artist, songwriter, radio announcer, and has served as a Governor for the Texas Chapter of the Recording Academy since 2021. Since Gene's initial election to the governor's seat, he has contributed the following: Served as team captain for the Recording Academy's District Advocate Day, a Grammy U mentor, and represented Grammy U & the Grammy Museum by speaking to junior high school students for their career day due to his heart for empowering today's youth.

In addition to serving as an officer of the Texas Chapter Board, he remains faithful to his love for music and media. He recently earned his second Grammy nomination for being a featured vocalist on Grammy winner, PJ Morton's song entitled "The Better Benediction," which was nominated for Best Gospel Song in 2023.



TEXAS CHAPTER ELECTED LEADERS GOVERNORS 2023-2024

EDDIE PEREZ GOVERNOR

Eddie Perez is an award winning instrumentalist and producer. Applying the bajo sexto to a surplus of musical genres was his "foot in the door" before making similar contributions on guitar, bass, accordion, and vocal harmonies. From forming his own group, to his studies in audio engineering, Perez has become a valuable resource in the Tejano, Norteño, and Conjunto markets.

In pursuit of a music career, Perez left his hometown of Chicago Heights, Illinois at age 16 to live with his extended family in San Benito, Texas; a town best known as the birthplace of country legend: Freddy Fender. Eddie Perez caught the ear of Sony Discos artist Fama in 1998. After touring with them for 3 years, Perez joined vocalist Eddie Gonzalez at the height of the artist's popularity. Perez' first producer credit was Gonzalez' 2003 GRAMMY nominated album: "Un Poco De Cambio".



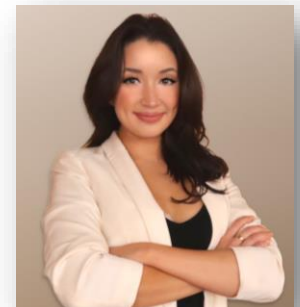
SUNNY SAUCEDA GOVERNOR



Three-time GRAMMY award-winning artist, Sunny Saucedo, has been a staple over the past 40 years in the music industry. In 2017 he was inducted into the Tejano Roots Hall of fame and has won 24 Tejano Music Awards including the most recent "Entertainer of the Year" for 2022. Sunny previously served on the Board of Governors and had a term as Vice President of the Texas Chapter but unfortunately had to step away to care for his son. Sunny continued to remain relevant and influential within the music scene as he toured the United States and Mexico and continues to branch out into new genres. He has gained new followers and continues to excite fans with his social media outlets and performances with multiple viral videos that caught the attention of millions internationally. Sunny would like to serve and use his voice to advocate for everything the academy stands for such as creating awareness, championing creators' rights, and outreach to the younger generation.

SUERA SHEIKHI GOVERNOR

Suera Sheikhi is an ambitious and diligent professional in the entertainment industry. Now a Team Lead of Rights Management with YouTube Music's content operations team, and as the founding Director of a Sports & Entertainment Law Division at her previous law firm, Suera's passions lie in entertainment, sports, and business law. In law school, Suera single-handedly managed a law clinic by managing and providing services to 20+ indigent clients. Further, Suera was actively involved in the Sports & Entertainment Law Society and served as an officer for the Environmental Law Society. After law school, Suera continued her involvement in the entertainment industry by becoming an active member of the Texas Chapter of the Recording Academy. Suera assisted in organization of the "GRAMMYS at the Texas Capitol" program through scheduling, speaking, and lobbying with Texas legislators regarding music rights and music programs in Texas public schools. Later, Suera was asked to act as the Chapter's Houston Advocate, and was in charge of organizing and facilitating events for Houston university and college students with music business professionals, including, but not limited to music attorneys, GRAMMY-winning recording artists, music publishers, and more.

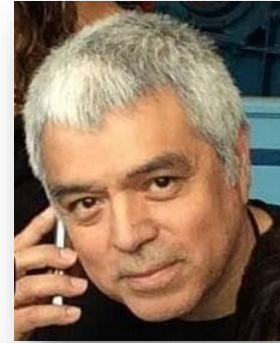


TEXAS CHAPTER ELECTED LEADERS GOVERNORS 2023-2024

GILBERT VELASQUEZ

GOVERNOR

Gilbert Velasquez is a guitarist, songwriter, producer, arranger, recording engineer and a business owner. (V-Music / San Antonio) Velasquez has been an active musician in San Antonio for over 50 years. Has served numerous terms on the “Board of Governors” of the “Texas Chapter of the Recording Academy”, also serving two terms as Trustee. Has served on Awards and Nominations committees / screening committees. Accolades include a total of sixteen (16) GRAMMY / Latin GRAMMY Awards (nominations easily quadruple that number) for his work on various projects as a producer/engineer. He was recognized ('07) with the “Gibson Guitar Special Achievement Award” for his work in Tex-Mex music.



CARLOS SOSA

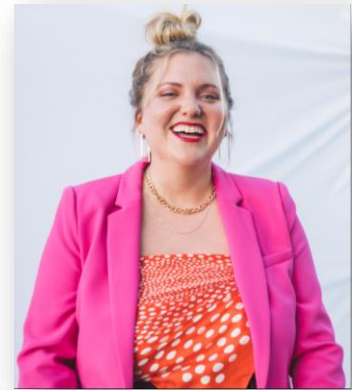
GOVERNOR

Carlos Sosa is a well-known composer/arranger/producer/songwriter and musician residing in Austin. He is best known for working with acts such as Kelly Clarkson, Jason Mraz, Natalia Lafourcade, Zac Brown Band, Jesse and Joy and countless others. Mr. Sosa continues to work in genres such as Pop, hip-hop, Latin, country and children's music. He has also been a major contributor on a few GRAMMY-winning albums and several that were nominated.

CASSIE SHANKMAN GOVERNOR

Cassie Shankman, aka DJ Cassandra, is an Austin-based DJ, composer, pianist, educator, and a big believer in community and collaboration. She's DJ'd events for global clients such as The Recording Academy, Goldman Sachs, NASCAR, Google, Adidas, Kendra Scott, Dell, SXSW, ACL Live, performing for virtual audiences of 18,000 to in-person audiences of 50,000 to national audiences of millions. As a pianist she's performed with artists such as DEVO's frontman Mark Mothersbaugh to indie-rock artist Ben Kweller to jazz trombonist Wycliffe Gordon. As an orchestrator and composer, and educator / music performance coach, her work has been recognized in major TV/Films and commercials.

As a proponent for music education, Cassie has been an active member with the Recording Academy's Texas Chapter Education committee for 6 years and counting, and is also a 4-time featured speaker for GRAMMY Career Day. She also recently joined the Texas Chapters' Songwriter and Composer committee this year. In addition, she co-founded the web-app Picardy focused on helping anyone develop music theory and musicianship skills.



TEXAS CHAPTER ELECTED LEADERS GOVERNORS 2023-2024

HEATHER WAGNER REED

GOVERNOR



Heather Wagner Reed is the Founder + CEO of Juice Consulting, an Austin-based PR and marketing firm that specializes in sectors ranging from music and entertainment to tech and innovation, the nonprofit world, visual arts and much more. Founded in 2007, Juice's clients range from famed disco legend Gloria Gaynor and neo-soul songstress Erykah Badu to some of the top indie acts and entertainment clients coming out of the region. As one of the premiere boutique PR firms in Texas, Juice's motto is "adding vitality to your campaign" and they have a leave-no-stone-unturned approach to getting remarkable client results. AKA, they bring the JUICE! Before starting Juice in 2007, Heather served as Senior Product Manager for 28 GRAMMY-winning artist Beyoncé, handling her day-to-day management and global marketing coordination for five years as part of Music World Entertainment/Sanctuary Records. There she also worked with artists such as Destiny's Child, Solange, Mario, and many other renowned acts on the label. With over 27 years in the sector, Heather's passion for the entertainment industry started with a long stint in college radio at WUOG-FM Athens at the University of Georgia. She went on to spend five and a half years working in Europe for companies such as Universal Music Holland (Mercury Records), music internet startup Soundartist, and Disneyland Paris, among others.

KITT WAKELEY GOVERNOR

Kitt Wakeley is a GRAMMY Award-winning composer/producer/artist; a 5-time #1 Billboard charting musician; an Indie Music Hall of Fame Inductee; and a voting member of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences since 2014.

Although Kitt produces and records in studios across the US for numerous genres, such as rock, pop, electronic, and jazz, he is often noted for his work at Abbey Road Studios and with orchestras such as the London Symphony and Royal Philharmonic. His versatile approach allows him to write, produce and record crossover classical music that creates a hybrid of orchestra, rock, and electronic music. This gives Kitt the flexibility to release projects in either a classical element only or add a commercial appeal that includes a more epic movie score vibe. Kitt has been a loyal supporter of the Recording Academy, serving as a governing board member of the Texas Chapter, a Grammy U Mentor and participating as an advocacy committee member, as well as supporting MusiCares and the missions which they promote.



TEXAS CHAPTER ELECTED LEADERS ADVISORS 2023-2024

TAMERA BENNETT ADVISOR



Tamera H. Bennett is a wife, mom, lawyer, mediator, [blogger](#), [podcaster](#), and legal writer. For over 24 years she's helped clients protect what they create. Tamera's practice is focused on trademark application prosecution, content licensing (primarily music) for established businesses, and representing estates that have inherited copyrights.

Tamera has co-hosted more than 150 episodes of the Entertainment Law Update Podcast since 2009. And, she's been honored to write for BILLBOARD magazine and the TEXAS LAWYER.

SAMA'AN ASHRAWI ADVISOR

Sama'an Ashrawi is a writer and producer of many kinds and host of the Nostalgia Mixtape podcast. His work has featured Megan Thee Stallion, Drake, Coldplay's Chris Martin, Kendrick Lamar, J. Cole, DJ Khaled, the Beastie Boys' Adam Horowitz, Bad Brains' Darryl Jenifer, Pharrell, Lupe Fiasco, A\$AP Rocky, Gary Clark Jr, Leon Bridges, Mac Miller, Thundercat, Ana Tijoux, Khruangbin, and dozens more. Music is the strongest thread in his life, stretching back to before he was born: in the 1960s and 70s his father Ibrahim was the lead singer of Al-Bara'em, the first rock n roll band in Palestine.

In 2016, Sama'an co-produced the song "Captive of the Sun," a collaboration between punk rock band Parquet Courts and rapper Bun B, which debuted on *The Late Show With Stephen Colbert*. In 2018, he helped produce Bun B's Houston Rodeo performance with Leon Bridges, and later the song "Gone Away," featuring a Texas triumvirate of Bun B, Bridges, and Gary Clark Jr, as well as "Blood on the Dash," another Bun B-Gary Clark pairing, from Bun's most recent solo album: *Return of the Trill*. Also in 2018, he co-produced the Thundercat remix album *Drank*, alongside DJ Candlestick and OG Ron C. In 2019, he was named a Culture Leader in Houston and the following year made Arab America's 40 Under 40 list. In 2021, he co-wrote and co-produced a Middle-Eastern rendition of the blues standard "Baby Please Don't Go" with Kam Franklin and London-based oudist Kareem Samara. In 2023, he helped produce "Veneers", a song by comedian-turned-rapper Hannibal Buress, featuring Danny Brown and Paul Wall.

